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Item 14 (b) of the provisional agenda**
Social and human rights questions: social development

Establishment of the World Solidarity Fund

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General herewith transmits the report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) entitled "Progress report on the measures taken for the operationalization of the World Solidarity Fund", submitted in accordance with General Assembly resolution 57/265 (see annex). In that resolution the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to request the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to submit to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2003 a progress report on the measures taken for the operationalization of the World Solidarity Fund and to ensure that the implementation of the resolution is reported on to the Assembly at its fifty-eighth session, under the agenda item entitled "Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)".

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Annex

Progress report on the measures taken for the operationalization of the World Solidarity Fund

Report by the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme

Summary

The World Solidarity Fund, which was established in February 2003 as a trust fund of the United Nations Development Programme, is subject to the financial rules and regulations adopted by the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund. Since its establishment, steps have been taken to operationalize and publicize the Fund. It is proposed to establish a high-level committee, composed of people with practical experience in business, development and government, to define the strategy of the World Solidarity Fund. The Committee is expected to present its recommendations by November 2003. Following this exercise, the executive secretariat of the World Solidarity Fund will undertake the financing of projects, should funds become available.

1. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 56/207, the Secretary-General was requested to submit to the Assembly, at its fifty-seventh session, a report containing his recommendations on the mechanisms, modalities, terms of reference, mandates and governance for the operationalization of a proposed world solidarity fund for poverty eradication.

2. The report of the Secretary-General on the proposal to establish a world solidarity fund for poverty eradication was submitted to the General Assembly on 2 July 2002 (A/57/137).

3. In September 2002, in Johannesburg, South Africa, the World Summit on Sustainable Development adopted its Plan of Implementation, in which it decided to establish a World Solidarity Fund.

4. The discussion on the establishment of the fund was held in the Second Committee of the General Assembly under the agenda item "Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty". Following discussion in the Second Committee, the Assembly adopted resolution 57/265, entitled "Establishment of the World Solidarity Fund".

5. In its resolution 57/265, the General Assembly: endorsed the decision of the World Summit on Sustainable Development to establish the World Solidarity Fund to eradicate poverty and promote social and human development in developing countries; underscored the voluntary nature of contributions to the Fund and the need to avoid duplication of existing United Nations funds; encouraged the role of the private sector and individual citizens relative to Governments in funding the endeavours; and entrusted the Administrator of the United Nations Development

Programme (UNDP) to take the necessary measures for the immediate operationalization of the Fund as a trust fund of the Programme.

6. In the same resolution, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to ask the Administrator of UNDP to submit to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2003 a progress report on the measures taken for the operationalization of the Fund. The present report is submitted in compliance with that request.

Operationalization of the World Solidarity Fund

7. The Administrator of UNDP is pleased to report that the World Solidarity Fund was set up in February 2003 as a trust fund of UNDP, subject to the financial rules and regulations adopted by the Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA. At the time of writing, however, the Fund account has yet to receive contributions.

Proposed terms of reference of the World Solidarity Fund

8. In keeping with the terms of General Assembly resolution 57/265, the World Solidarity Fund will encourage the role of the private sector and individual citizens in funding its endeavours. Furthermore, the World Solidarity Fund will support requests received from Governments of developing countries for financing poverty alleviation projects, including initiatives from community-based organizations and small private sector entities.

9. It is important, in this regard, that the World Solidarity Fund, in implementing the terms of General Assembly resolution 57/265, not replicate existing operations of multilateral development institutions, but seek innovative ways of supporting poverty eradication projects. A first period, lasting until November 2003, will be devoted to the development of an innovative strategy for the World Solidarity Fund, prior to launching its project-based operations.

10. Such a strategy would aim to ensure that the World Solidarity Fund fills an important gap in development practice and that its operations are sustainable and lead to long-term, visible results.

11. Consequently, the Administrator of UNDP, pursuant to the proposals contained in the report of the Secretary-General (A/57/137), proposes the establishment of a high-level committee to define the strategy of the World Solidarity Fund. The committee would be composed of people with practical experience in business, development and government. The Committee will highlight best practices already under way and will suggest "next practices" in the form of actionable ideas that can be implemented in the next one to three years that will be both replicable and scalable.

12. The Committee's recommendations will be presented to the Secretary-General and will be forwarded for consideration by developing and developed countries as well as by national and multilateral development agencies.

13. The substantive work of the Committee will be undertaken under three main headings: financing mechanisms; government policy and institutions; and human resources. The Committee will thus examine alternative mechanisms to promote the financing of small and medium-sized enterprises. The Committee will also examine ways in which government policies and institutions can support private sector

growth and collaboration with government and civil society in the eradication of poverty. Finally, the Committee will also look at policies designed to create a critical mass of entrepreneurs in developing countries and those aspects of a national human resources strategy that have a bearing on fostering an indigenous private sector.

14. The Committee is expected to present its recommendations by November 2003. Following this exercise, the executive secretariat of the World Solidarity Fund, within UNDP, will undertake the financing of projects, should funds become available, to alleviate poverty by piloting the recommendations of the Committee.

15. The Administrator of UNDP has issued invitations to several prominent personalities in government and the private sector to join the Committee. The Government of Tunisia, which supported the World Solidarity Fund in the United Nations, has also offered to appoint a high-level personality as a member of the Committee.

Publicizing the World Solidarity Fund

16. The President of the Republic of Tunisia wrote to the Secretary-General on 27 December 2002 expressing his appreciation for his efforts in supporting the creation of the World Solidarity Fund and pledging the continuing support of Tunisia for the Fund.

17. Following the adoption of General Assembly resolution 57/265, the Administrator of UNDP issued a press release, on 20 December 2002, expressing his enthusiastic support for the creation of the Fund by the General Assembly. He noted that the World Solidarity Fund was an innovative mechanism that would support national development efforts along with the energy of community-based organizations, the commitment of individuals and the vibrancy of the private sector. He noted the important potential contributions of the World Solidarity Fund to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, in particular the goal of halving poverty by 2015. In his remarks, the Administrator of UNDP paid tribute to the pioneering efforts of Tunisia in supporting the creation of the Fund.

18. The Associate Administrator of UNDP visited Tunisia from 10 to 13 March 2003. In Tunisia, the Associate Administrator of UNDP discussed, inter alia, the creation of the World Solidarity Fund. The Tunisian authorities expressed their satisfaction with the creation of the Fund and pledged continued support for its implementation.

Recommendations

19. **The Economic and Social Council may wish to take note of the establishment of the World Solidarity Fund, as a trust fund of the United Nations Development Programme.**

20. **The Economic and Social Council may also wish to endorse the proposals for the operationalization of the World Solidarity Fund as describe above.**

21. **The Economic and Social Council may wish to recall paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 57/265 encouraging contributions to the World Solidarity Fund.**

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Coordination, programme and other questions: long-term programme of support for Haiti

Long-term programme of support for Haiti

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

Since the adoption in 1999 of a resolution on the elaboration of a long-term programme of support for Haiti, the Economic and Social Council, at each of its substantive sessions, has had before it a report on the implementation of a programme. The present report, prepared in close coordination with the United Nations resident coordinator in Haiti, describes the economic and political context in which the United Nations system has operated since last year, summarizes the levels of official development assistance granted and provides an overview of the actions undertaken to prepare the outlines of a long-term programme of support. The report stresses, however, that the political crisis experienced by Haiti which, despite the assistance provided by the Organization of American States, is persisting, constitutes a major obstacle to the country's development and to the international assistance it so urgently needs.

* E/2003/100.

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Introduction

1. This report is part of the follow-up by the Economic and Social Council since 1999 to the economic and social situation in Haiti. Invited by the Security Council to contribute to the elaboration of a long-term programme of support for Haiti,[1] the Council, in its resolution 1999/4 of 7 May 1999, created an Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti. The Group undertook an assessment mission to that country, consulted many national and international actors, and presented its conclusions to the Council at its substantive session in 1999 (see E/1999/103).

2. On the basis of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group's recommendations, the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1999/11 of 27 July 1999, requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Government of Haiti, to take the necessary steps to develop on a priority basis a long-term strategy and programme of support for Haiti.

3. Reports on the implementation of the programme were subsequently presented to the Council at its substantive sessions (see E/2000/63, E/2001/67 and E/2002/56). In its resolution 2002/22 of 24 July 2002, the Economic and Social Council requested that the Secretary-General, in coordination with the United Nations resident coordinator in Haiti, report on progress achieved in implementing the long-term programme of support for Haiti, and that the report be prepared for the Council on the basis of developments in Haiti.

I. Economic and political context

General human development context

4. Haiti is the only country in the Americas which is classified among the least developed countries. With an estimated 8.1 million inhabitants in 2000, the average population density is about 290 persons per km^2. Demographic growth is estimated at about 2 per cent per year, and the per capita gross domestic product (GDP) at US$ 480[2] for 2001. The per capita GDP has not increased, in real terms, in relation to the 1970s and, moreover, has declined almost continuously since the early 1980s.[3] Life expectancy at birth in Haiti is 56.3 years.[4] The human development index calculated for 2000 is 0.471 in Haiti, putting it in 146th place out of 173 countries of the world.

5. According to available estimates, about 47 per cent[5] of the population lives below the poverty line. The malnutrition rate is 56 per cent, the illiteracy rate is approaching 50 per cent, the school enrolment rate is only 52 per cent, while it is estimated that only 46 per cent of the population has access to water supply points, and 28 per cent to adequate sanitary facilities.

6. In this context of economic stagnation, demographic growth has accentuated both the pressure on natural resources and migration trends. Forest resources are, for all practical purposes, exhausted. Deforestation and the cultivation of land which is less and less suitable for agriculture, in a country where the arable surfaces are limited to one third of the total area, have as a corollary environmental degradation, the most obvious sign of which, erosion, is continually advancing and increasingly threatening water resources and the productivity of the plains.

7. Migration from rural areas to the towns, and from Haiti to countries abroad, is fairly significant. The urbanization rate increased from 21.7 per cent in 1975 to about 35 per cent,[6] and the population of Port-au-Prince, which was estimated at 720,000 inhabitants in 1982, is now, according to the most recent estimates, over 2 million.[7] In 1999, over 1.5 million Haitians were living outside the country, mainly in the Dominican Republic and the United States of America.[8] Money transfers from emigrants, particularly from residents of North America, currently estimated at some US$ 800 million,[9] constitute an essential contribution to the survival of many families, and to the stability of the balance of payments.

Political and security context

8. The efforts made to resolve the political crisis remain seriously limited in their scope by the persistence of challenges, which have characterized the country's political life since the fall of the Duvalier dictatorship in 1986. It may be recalled that in May 2000, the legislative and local elections, won by the ruling party (Fanmi Lavalas), gave rise to many challenges, supported in part by the international community. These unresolved challenges led to the boycott of the presidential elections by the opposition. At the external level, they led to the progressive suspension of most international assistance, which was caused also by Haiti's non-payment of its debt to multilateral institutions.

9. The presidency of Mr. Jean-Bertrand Aristide, since he took office in February 2001, has been marked by crises within the Government and strong challenges by the opposition. The Convergence Démocratique, a coalition of political parties, is the major actor of the opposition. The first task of the current Prime Minister, Yvon Neptune, appointed in March 2002, was to resolve this crisis.

10. In November and December 2002, the public debate became more radicalized and many pro- and anti-Lavalas demonstrations were organized. Some of them were marked by violent incidents, while others took place in apparent calm, under the protection of the national police. During the same period, 184 civil society organizations established a new group, which is proposing a solution to the current crisis through a new social contract. The situation remains polarized, especially between the representatives of the Fanmi Lavalas party and those of the Convergence Démocratique, supported by the new group of 184 which has taken a position in support of the departure of President Aristide before the end of his term.

11. An atmosphere of growing insecurity is also discernible in several towns and districts of the country, and it is reported that armed groups are acting beyond the control of the national police.

12. Following the departure of the International Civilian Support Mission in Haiti (MICAH) in February 2001, the Organization of American States (OAS) assumed a major role of support for the negotiating process between the ruling party and the opposition, through the adoption, on 5 June 2001, of resolution AG/RES.1831 (XXXI-0/01) entitled "Support for democracy in Haiti". This resolution called upon all the parties to commit themselves to finding a negotiated solution to the crisis, instructed the Secretary General of OAS to increase his efforts in this respect, and suggested the establishment of a Group of Friends for Haiti, which was established in November 2001. By its resolution CP/RES.806 (1303/02), of 16 January 2002, the Permanent Council of OAS called upon the parties to establish a framework

conducive to political negotiations, and created the OAS Special Mission for the strengthening of democracy in Haiti. This Mission was established on 1 March 2002 on the basis of an agreement between OAS and the Haitian Government, which defines the Mission's areas of competence: security, justice, human rights, good governance, strengthening of democracy and institutions.

13. In June 2002 the OAS Special Mission facilitated the conclusion of an agreement between the two parties on the holding of local and legislative elections in 2003, the establishment of a Provisional Electoral Council and the appointment of its members. This important stage was supported by the adoption of OAS Permanent Council resolution CP/RES.822 (1331/02), dated 4 September 2002, which confirmed the readiness of OAS to strengthen the rule of law and support the holding of elections in 2003, the disarmament programme, and the normalization of relations with the Bretton Woods institutions. In return for this assistance, a number of conditions were to be fulfilled by 4 November 2002. In particular, the Government was to have completed the payment of reparations to the victims of the events of 17 December 2001, and a Provisional Electoral Council was to have been formed in accordance with the process proposed in June 2001. In November 2002, the OAS Special Mission and the Haitian Government negotiated specific terms of reference for the assistance to be provided in the areas of elections, security, disarmament, justice and institutions.

14. Some progress made in the implementation of resolution 822 deserves to be mentioned. Several reparations payments were made to the victims of 17 December 2001 and, on 7 February 2003, the presidency issued a decree announcing the creation of a Provisional Electoral Council composed of nine members, of whom seven have since been appointed. The two remaining seats appear to be for those who would return to Convergence Démocratique and the rest of the opposition, even if this is not stipulated in the decree. Moreover, the actual participation of some sectors remains subject to actions which, according to these groups, the Government is to carry out under resolution 822.

15. A high-level OAS/CARICOM delegation visited Haiti on 19 and 20 March 2003 to urge the parties to implement the provisions of resolution 822. The delegation headed by Mr. Julian Hunte, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Saint Lucia, and Ambassador Luigi Einaudi, Deputy Secretary General of OAS, was composed of 19 senior officials representing 12 countries and organizations. It called upon the Government to take specific steps to create a climate conducive to the holding of free and credible elections, while calling upon the opposition and civil society to respect their obligations in that regard. In its report to be presented to the OAS Permanent Council on 3 April 2003, the delegation takes a negative view of developments in the situation in Haiti and deplores the fact that the Government and the opposition are continually hurling accusations at each other, thus impeding the electoral process.

16. Moreover, Mr. Louis Joinet, independent expert on the situation of human rights in Haiti, presented his first report to the Commission on Human Rights in March 2003 (E/CN.4/2003/116). In it he condemns the increase in everyday violence, the resurgence of violence against specific targets which curtails freedom of opinion and expression, and the deficiencies observed in the operation of the penal system. He also notes some encouraging signs, such as the trials of

perpetrators of violence, and recommends renewed and better targeted technical cooperation in the field of human rights.

Economic context

17. For years Haiti has been confronted by a recurring phenomenon, namely, budget deficits. The actual amounts of this deficit are as follows: (1) for total revenue from October 2002 to January 2003, G2.8 billion, representing an increase of 6 per cent as compared with the same months in the previous year; (2) for total expenditure during the same period, G5.3 billion, representing an increase of 61 per cent as compared with the same months in the previous year. The actual balance, i.e., the difference between cash income and expenditure, shows a deficit of G1.9 billion for the same period. This marked increase in the deficit is expected to continue in the months to come. On the other hand, the external debt has not increased much; after stagnating for a long time at around US$ 1 billion, it is currently US$ 1.248 billion. Lastly, the Central Bank's net foreign currency assets have deteriorated, from US$ 103 million in October 2001 to US$ 45.53 million in October 2002.

18. The reasons for the persistence of this deficit are numerous, but mention should be made in particular of civil servants' salaries and the deficiencies of financing through international cooperation. Salaries represent a fixed item of government expenditure (G1.3 billion), while domestic tax revenue is not sufficient to cover the deficits. Moreover, such revenue stems from indirect taxes, which fall most heavily on the most disadvantaged. Figures show that smuggling and corruption have only highlighted the importance of domestic revenue, which in turn is largely dependent on the economic situation and employment, both of which have greatly deteriorated. The GDP is falling steadily; its rate of growth has been about 1 per cent negative for several years.

19. The Central Bank (the Bank of the Republic of Haiti) directly finances the deficit. By January 2003 the Bank had already financed G1.6 billion of the G1.9 billion deficit. As a result, inflation reached 15 per cent in December 2002. The consumer prices indexes rose from 178 points in December 2001 to 205 points in December 2002, confirming the upward trend. The balance of payments shows a deficit, with declining exports, which do not cover the clearly higher volume of imports. Nearly 60 per cent of import coverage stems from private remittances from abroad. Financing by the Bank is also done through the issuance of bonds which are sold to commercial banks. The interest rates on these bonds are fairly high — a condition of their attractiveness — and what naturally ensues is a hike in interest rates and a decline in private-sector lending.

20. In order to redress the deficit, the Government put an end to subsidies of petroleum products. This decision, which to some extent reflected the commitments made to the international financial institutions, consisted of collecting outstanding taxes (the State reasserted its prerogatives) and allowing prices at the pump to adjust freely to the international price per barrel of crude. With the Venezuelan crisis, international prices climbed and were reflected in prices at the pump. These decisions confirmed certain expectations; retailers had already begun to overadjust consumer prices in response to rumours that dollars deposited in the country would be converted into Haitian gourdes. This ended by creating a speculative bubble in

the economy; the gourde fell from an exchange rate of G25:US$ 1 to G40:US$ 1 and G50:US$ 1.

21. The spectacular growth of savings and loan "cooperatives", which the Government had promoted in connection with the country's literacy campaign, followed by their no less spectacular failure, greatly affected the savings of economic actors. These establishments, which appeared in 1998, mostly with no legal status, were able to function outside of any regulation or supervision, and they multiplied, particularly during 2001. These "cooperatives" offered interest rates largely superior to those of banks (up to 12 per cent per month on deposits in gourdes and from 5 to 8 per cent per month on dollar deposits). Following the refusal of most banks to accept their deposits in February 2002, the "cooperatives" terminated their operations one after another, causing estimated losses of G5 billion to their numerous depositors. Despite the noisy protests of the injured depositors, the announced prosecutions were not undertaken, while the Government's promises of reimbursement have yet to be honoured.

II. Trend in official development assistance

22. The gradual suspension of most external assistance in Haiti continued during 2002. Combined assistance fell from US$ 427.5 million in 1995-1996 to US$ 188.83 million in 2000-2001.

	Official development assistance granted to Haiti (in millions of United States dollars)						
Years	*1995-1996*	*1996-1997*	*1997-1998*	*1998-1999*	*1999-2000*	*2000-2001*	*2001-2002 (projections)*
Amounts disbursed	427.5	354.07	381.52	357.19	266.29	188.83	142

Source: World Bank, *External Financing Report*.

23. The justifications for this suspension are both political and financial. The failure of the Haitian State to repay its multilateral debts led to a withholding of assistance to which the country was nonetheless committed and on which it had to pay interest. Moreover, assistance is no longer channelled through the Haitian State, but goes directly to beneficiaries through NGOs and other organizations. Accordingly, the State's capacity to respond to the needs of the population has been greatly diminished. It should be noted that the United Nations is among the few partners to have maintained direct assistance to the Government.

III. Implementation of the long-term support programme

24. Coordination of the activities of the United Nations system, and the implementation of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), continued in 2002 and gained fresh impetus in September 2002 with the arrival of the new Resident Coordinator, Mr. Adama Guindo. In varying degrees, the agencies of the United Nations system have been involved in all of the programmes listed below.

25. *Implementation of the Framework*: A governance support programme was drawn up and approved by the Government in January 2003. It constitutes a framework aimed at facilitating cooperation among all partners wishing to contribute to the improvement of governance in Haiti. It covers the period 2003-2006, forms part of the initiatives of the United Nations system in Haiti, and takes into account the framework established by resolution 822, and hence the mandate of the OAS Special Mission. As such, it contributes to the establishment of UNDAF. Its main objective is to support Haiti in the process of institutional normalization, building of democratic institutions and strengthening of governance. In so doing, it aims at continuing the many activities undertaken in the area of justice and the rule of law to protect the achievements of the successive peacekeeping missions and build on that foundation. In addition, the governance support programme seeks to ensure the strengthening of the legislative institutions as they emerge from the coming elections, and to promote decentralization and local governance, as well as the modernization of the State. It also has a transverse component which deals with sustainable development and has dimensions relating to advocacy, public debates, the issue of parity and methods of drawing up strategies and policies.

26. *Response to the urgent needs of the population*: At the start of 2003 the United Nations system, together with bilateral and multilateral donors and a number of non-governmental organizations, finalized an integrated humanitarian programme of assistance to vulnerable populations. This integrated programme is an initiative of the agencies of the United Nations system in Haiti to offer a coordinated, rapid and targeted response to the needs of a growing part of the population which has reached a critical threshold of vulnerability. This programme aims at strengthening the medium-term and long-term development efforts while supporting the vulnerable populations in their strategies for access to essential services and vital commodities. The programme will last 18 months, the time required to create new synergies among the various actors involved on the ground and between the dynamics of support for essential needs and the dynamics of support for development.

27. *The Millennium Development Goals (MDG)*: A number of presentations preceded the real start of work to produce Haiti's report on the Goals. First, a study was conducted following the methodology proposed by the United Nations Development Group Office on the basis of Haitian data. The results of this study were presented on 24 October, United Nations Day, and on 26 November to donors and the Haitian Government, in order to convince all the partners of the importance of drafting a report of that kind. On this basis, an inter-agency committee comprising national and international agencies, primarily from the United Nations system, has been established. Terms of reference have been drawn up for the consultants to be involved with the topics related to the Goals, and recruitment has started. The theme groups of the United Nations system have also been identified. The programming of the report provides for its completion in the summer of 2003.

28. *The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria*: The support of the United Nations system in general, and in particular of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) has been substantial in the negotiating process which led to the approval of Haiti as one of the very first countries to receive an allocation from this Fund. It has fallen to the Sogebank Foundation (a non-profit-making entity of a local bank) and UNDP to be the two main recipients of the US$ 67 million allocated by the Fund to Haiti over five years. The two recipients nevertheless remain

autonomous and will work with 17 NGOs selected by the Global Fund. The activities undertaken with this financing should benefit hundreds of thousands of people and contribute to limiting the spread of HIV/AIDS in Haiti while offering affected and infected persons better opportunities of treatment and support. In addition, this programme will strengthen national capacity to manage the epidemic by means of a multisectoral approach. The UNAIDS group is chaired this year by the representative of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

29. *Continuation of activities after the International Civilian Support Mission in Haiti (MICAH)*: UNDP has continued its activities in the area of justice, working, inter alia, with three pilot jurisdictions, the Ombudsman Office, the National Magistrates School and the Prisons Administration, and with human rights organizations. It should be noted that in this area UNDP is benefiting from the substantial support of partners such as Canada, Sweden, the European Union and Japan through the United Nations Volunteers programme (UNV), as well as the programme of the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF). It is envisaged that this year pilot experiments will be launched relating to the register of births, marriages and deaths, and that to this end links will be established with the work conducted by other agencies, including the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), UNFPA and the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

30. *Analysis of poverty and strengthening of social statistics*: For the past five years, the United Nations system, particularly UNDP, has been supporting the Haitian Statistics and Data-processing Institute, which comes under the authority of the Ministry of the Economy and Finance, in compiling social data. Household budget surveys were conducted in 1987, 1998 and 2000. In 2001 UNDP, in cooperation with the Haitian Government and with the financial support of the Government of Norway, conducted an in-depth survey of the living conditions of Haitian households. The survey covers, inter alia, erosion, housing, access to basic services, population and migration, education and health, and ways of life in the rural and urban environments. A number of these issues are also dealt with from the standpoint of the Millennium Development Goals, which give one-year coverage of the various indices of which they are made up. UNDP is also continuing its campaign with the Institute to improve the social statistics collected from the administrative department. This falls within the framework of the eventual production by the Government of a strategy framework for combating poverty, an exercise which the Government has not yet embarked upon.

31. *Risk and calamity management*: In 1997 the Government of Haiti established the Civil Defence Department, whose role is to coordinate relief operations and activities to manage risks and calamities resulting from natural disasters. In 2000, with UNDP support, the Department submitted a national risk and calamity management plan which has two main objectives: (1) to act on the causes and the factors creating the state of vulnerability in order to reduce the impact of calamities; (2) to strengthen the capacity to respond to needs in the case of calamities at all levels — central, departmental, commune and local. Decentralized civil defence committees have also been established. As this topic is a central dimension of UNDAF, the agencies of the United Nations system intend to act jointly in this area. In parallel with the assistance provided to the Government, the United Nations system has also prepared itself for natural disaster management through the preparation of a contingency plan (with the assistance of the Office for the

Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs) and the establishment of a crisis management team, which is coordinated by the World Food Programme (WFP).

32. *Education for all*: In the context of the UNDAF activities, the Millennium Development Goals and the recommendations of the Dakar World Forum, the agencies of the United Nations system, piloted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), have supported the process of drawing up the national plan of action on education for all. In addition, knowledge of the education system has been increased through the launching of the school census. These activities are conducted in partnership with Canadian cooperation, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Japanese cooperation, the European Union, UNICEF, UNFPA and WFP.

Conclusion

33. Since last year, little change has taken place in the international assistance provided to Haiti, where the political crisis continues to compromise the drawing up of a long-term support programme. Note should however be taken of the increased role being played by OAS to help the country emerge from the impasse and strengthen its institutions. In this respect the most recent evaluations by OAS, in the context of its Special Mission, its governing bodies and the high-level delegation that visited Haiti, agree in presenting a disturbing picture of the overall political situation, and of the electoral process in particular. The normalization of political life in Haiti is however a prerequisite for the return of the major donors, whose assistance is needed in order to satisfy the population's needs and implement economic and social policies that hold promise for the future. In this respect, it can only be hoped that the political forces in the country will take the opportunity of the celebrations of the bicentennial of Haiti's independence in 2004, the symbolic force of which is present in everyone's mind, to rise above the partisan differences, commit themselves to bringing the electoral process to a successful conclusion and institute a relationship of trust with the country's international partners.

34. The Council may wish to take note of this report.

Notes

[1] See Security Council resolution 1212 (1998) of 25 November 1998.

[2] Haiti at a Glance, World Bank 2002.

[3] Idem.

[4] Haitian Institute of Statistics (1996).

[5] Idem — according to a 1998 World Bank report, 65 per cent of the population, 80 per cent of them inhabitants of rural areas, were living below the poverty threshold.

[6] UNDP, World Economic and Social Survey 2001 and 2002.

[7] Haiti — The challenges of combating poverty — World Bank 1998.

[8] UNDP, World Economic and Social Survey 2001 and 2002.

[9] Ministry of Haitians Living Abroad.

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Annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2002

Summary

The present report provides an overview of major developments in inter-agency cooperation during the year 2002 within the purview of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB).

During the year, Executive Heads in CEB focused on guiding the system's contribution to the development of strategies to review progress, and to advocate and assist Member States in the implementation of the development goals embodied in the United Nations Millennium Declaration; gave special attention to the follow-up to the objectives and goals of the Millennium Declaration relating to "the treatment and prevention of diseases, including HIV/AIDS and malaria", and "preventing armed conflict" — the two themes selected for greater in-depth treatment in the 2002 report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly on the implementation of the Millennium Declaration; reviewed the progress being made in providing coherent, system-wide support to the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD); and considered ways of fashioning an integrated follow-up of the three major conferences held during the course of the year: the International Conference on Financing for Development; the World Food Summit: Five Years Later; and the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

On the first theme, CEB provided a system-wide perspective for the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly on the follow-up to the United Nations Millennium Declaration. In formulating United Nations system responses, CEB re-emphasized the multisectoral challenge of achieving the health goals of the Millennium Declaration and took steps to promote mutually reinforcing actions in a

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number of areas. In relation to "preventing armed conflicts", Executive Heads decided that the central component of the United Nations system's strategy should lie in the promotion of development and the eradication of poverty; and adopted measures to ensure that the conflict prevention and development agendas would be mutually reinforcing. With regard to United Nations system support for Africa, CEB decided to use, to the maximum extent possible, NEPAD as the framework for maximizing the effectiveness and impact of its contribution to the sustainable development of Africa.

Supporting the work of CEB, and acting on its behalf, the High-level Committee on Management (HLCM) in 2002 made progress in promoting converging action within the system in a number of key areas of common concern, including: information and communication technologies, and staff security and safety. In the programme area, the High-level Committee on Programmes (HLCP), in addition to preparing CEB deliberations in the areas outlined above, particularly the follow-up to the Millennium Summit and system-wide support for NEPAD, pursued, during the year, inter-agency collaboration in areas ranging from information technology for development, with the World Summit on the Information Society in view, to trade facilitation.

The report also provides information on assistance to countries invoking Article 50 of the Charter of the United Nations as requested by the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC).

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Introduction

1. Previous overview reports of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) highlighted the major impact that the global conferences of the 1990s had had on inter-agency relations, by providing the system with broad policy objectives around which it could rally and in relation to which common impact could be measured.

2. Building on the outcomes of these conferences, the United Nations Millennium Declaration[1] has marked another major turning point in the evolution of inter-agency coordination, deeply affecting the direction and thrust of the work of CEB. It has given the organizations of the system a single, overarching policy framework to which they are all, individually and collectively, committed. This has imparted unprecedented clarity of vision and unity of purpose to inter-agency work and has provided added impetus and focus to the effort, led by CEB, to maximize synergies in the work of United Nations organizations in advancing common, agreed development goals. The International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Monterrey, Mexico, in 2002, and the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, in 2002, have further enriched the shared policy framework guiding the system.

3. In keeping with these trends, the programmes of work of the Chief Executives Board's High-level Committees on Programmes and Management (HLCP and HLCM) are being increasingly focused on broad key themes of system-wide concern, making it possible for the Chief Executive Board's own agenda to concentrate on the common strategies to be followed by the system in order to maximize its contribution to progress in meeting the goals of the United Nations Millennium Declaration and other global conferences. In drawing up these agendas, a deliberate effort is being made to maximize the support that the inter-agency system provides to intergovernmental follow-up processes, and particularly to support and facilitate the work of Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly in promoting an effective, coordinated implementation of the outcomes of the conferences.

4. It bears noting again in this context that the CEB annual report is only one in a wide range of monitoring and reporting instruments that bring the collective capacities of the system to bear on intergovernmental deliberations. Complementing the new methods of work adopted for CEB and its two High-level Committees, is a flexible system of "networks" of specialists and ad hoc inter-agency groups which interact on a continuing basis and meet for specific tasks, whenever needed. It has evolved to replace former CEB subsidiary bodies dealing with individual programme areas of inter-agency concern. Not only are these new arrangements more cost-efficient, and more easily adaptable to changing requirements, including support requirements of the relevant intergovernmental bodies, but they also respond better to the renewed emphasis on implementation guiding the work of the inter-agency as well as the intergovernmental machinery. The culture that now pervades the work of CEB is thus one that combines a unified vision of agreed goals to which the system as a whole is committed, with a renewed focus on implementation and impact in pursuing these goals.

5. The present overview report provides highlights of the work of CEB and its two committees, HLCP and HLCM, during 2002. Continuing the approach followed

in previous overview reports, it endeavours to go beyond a factual account of developments within CEB and its subsidiary bodies, to provide a broader sense of the progress being achieved by the secretariats of the United Nations system in making the system as a whole an institutional and programmatic reality, and putting it at the collective service of Member States.

6. During the year, Executive Heads in CEB focused on guiding the system's contribution to the development of strategies to review progress, and to advocate and assist countries in the implementation of the development goals embodied in the United Nations Millennium Declaration; gave special attention to the follow-up to the objectives and goals of the Millennium Declaration relating to "the treatment and prevention of diseases, including HIV/AIDS and malaria", and "preventing armed conflict" — the two themes selected for greater in-depth treatment in the 2002 report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly on the implementation of the Millennium Declaration (A/57/270 and Corr.1); reviewed the progress being made in providing coherent, system-wide support to the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) (A/57/304, annex); and considered ways of fashioning an integrated follow-up of the three major conferences held during the course of the year: the International Conference on Financing for Development; the World Food Summit: Five Years Later; and the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

7. Supporting the work of CEB, and acting on its behalf, the High-level Committee on Management has made progress in promoting converging action within the system in a number of key areas of common concern, including: information and communication technologies (ICT), and staff security and safety. In the programme area, the High-level Committee on Programmes, in addition to preparing CEB deliberations in the areas outlined above, particularly the follow-up to the Millennium Summit and system-wide support for NEPAD, pursued, during the year, inter-agency collaboration in priority areas, ranging from information technology for development, with the World Summit on the Information Society in view, to trade facilitation.

I. Follow-up to the Millennium Summit

A. Advancing the development goals of the United Nations Millennium Declaration

8. Throughout the year, CEB, and associated inter-agency consultations, gave special attention to harnessing the contribution of the system to advancing the integrating framework of development goals offered by the United Nations Millennium Declaration, and to supporting their sustained implementation. CEB recognized the special responsibility of the United Nations system for mobilizing and sustaining national and international support for agreed development goals, and the major operational and management challenges that this responsibility implies. Among them is the challenge of effectively integrating these goals into the work of the system, including, in particular, the coordination mechanisms at the country level, and organizing system-wide support for tasks transcending national borders that require multi-country cooperation. One of the key contributions of the Millennium Declaration has been to translate some of the main goals of the

conferences of the 1990s into time-bound quantitative goals and it is now necessary to ensure that their distillation into country-owned strategies should be based on national priorities and take into account particular country-specific situations. The needs and situations of individual countries differ. Inter-agency coordination should be responsive to such differences and help maximize the impact on human lives.

9. Against the background of these considerations, both sessions of CEB during the year were utilized by the Secretary-General and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to consult with Executive Heads in shaping and refining guiding principles and strategic elements of a multi-pronged campaign centring around the development goals embodied in the United nations Millennium Declaration. CEB members concurred that key among the principles guiding the exercise should be the pivotal role of national ownership and participation; a focus on partnerships involving Governments, civil society organizations and the private sector; and the full mobilization of the United Nations system to contribute towards meaningful results, while recognizing that achieving the goals of the Millennium Declaration is ultimately the responsibility of Member States.

10. The strategic orientations of the effort include:

1. Approaches to monitoring that would help secure consistent interpretations of progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (see A/56/326, annex) and contribute to turning goals and targets into recognized measures of successful international cooperation in support of sustainable development.

2. Analytical work on the policy dimensions that would help shift the policy dialogue among partners from the aspirational to the practical, that is to say, on the concrete measures required to make headway towards the agreed goals.

3. A mobilization effort aimed at fostering a self-sustaining movement extending beyond the United Nations system that would serve to mobilize commitments and capabilities of broad segments of society and build awareness and galvanize public opinion in support of actions, policies, priorities and corresponding resource allocations.

4. Operational activities to address key constraints on progress, guided by the mandates, comparative advantage and resources of the United Nations system at the country level.

11. In supporting these approaches and extending their full cooperation, members of CEB stressed the importance of building synergies among development goals and among the institutions mandated to pursue them. This should be achieved by building on, without blurring, the division of labour within the system and utilizing and harmonizing existing capacities and arrangements. It was observed that the emphasis on the development goals embodied in the United Nations Millennium Declaration not only did not diminish other mandated work of United Nations organizations, but should serve to give that work further impetus and direction. Similarly, the wide range of commitments and policy directives that have resulted from conference processes would need to continue to be followed up at all levels, in accordance with their own merit, and, indeed, as a means to give further content and thrust to the effort to realize the objectives of the Millennium Declaration.

B. Financing for development

12. Since the launch of the financing for development process by the General Assembly, CEB has been fully engaged in promoting an effective mobilization of relevant capacities available within the United Nations system in support of both the intergovernmental process and the coordinating secretariat. This has included policy advice and assistance in mobilizing the different constituencies of the organizations of the system in support of the International Conference on Financing for Development. CEB will build on this experience in ensuring an effective and participatory response to the request addressed to the Secretary-General by the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development[2] "to provide — with collaboration from the secretariats of the major institutional stakeholders concerned, fully utilizing the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination mechanism — sustained follow-up within the United Nations system to the agreements and commitments reached at the present Conference and to ensure effective secretariat support" (para. 72).

13. CEB will revert to issues related to the follow-up to the Monterrey Consensus in 2003, bearing in mind that they will be at the centre of both the special high-level meeting of the Economic and Social Council with the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization in April, and the high-level dialogue of the General Assembly in October, and that financing for development was selected as one of the themes to be given special attention in the 2003 report of the Secretary-General to the Assembly on the follow-up to the United Nations Millennium Declaration. The CEB High-level Committee on Programmes is also taking action to reflect in its work programme relevant aspects of the follow-up to the Monterrey Conference.

14. Efforts to ensure enhanced system-wide cooperation, and in particular strong links, at both the secretariat and the intergovernmental level, between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization, in the follow-up to Monterrey, are being accompanied by actions to pursue close collaboration with all relevant stakeholders, so as to help steer and sustain their active engagement and to ensure comprehensive reporting to the concerned intergovernmental bodies on follow-up activities and overall progress.

C. World Summit on Sustainable Development

15. CEB also had a first opportunity, at its second regular session of 2002, to address the follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development. CEB members shared the view that the Johannesburg Summit had succeeded in giving renewed political impetus to the implementation of commitments and agreements reached in Rio in 1992, and in introducing important new goals and targets to guide and orient follow-up at both the national and the international level. It was now incumbent on the system to build on, and sustain, this momentum.

16. It was pointed out that the key message to be conveyed by the system should be "implementation", which implies acting on the whole range of commitments made. In contributing to advancing the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, based on a clear division of responsibilities among organizations and agencies of the United Nations system, the system should

focus on promoting policies that effectively integrate the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, as well as on supporting the achievement of specific goals and time-bound targets, with the poverty eradication goals embodied in the United Nations Millennium Declaration as an overarching concern.

17. In reviewing the implications of the World Summit on Sustainable Development outcomes for the ongoing activities of the system in the five areas to which the Secretary-General had especially called the attention of the Summit — water and sanitation, energy, health, agriculture and biodiversity — CEB members shared the view that strategic and programmatic frameworks to advance implementation of the Summit outcomes should be flexible and action-oriented, and should contribute to enhancing coherence and maximizing impact by all concerned institutions. The need was stressed, at the same time, for bold approaches that would give visibility to the implementation processes, particularly with respect to the areas of water and energy, which, unlike health, agriculture and biodiversity, did not have a single institutional focal point in the United Nations system. Enhancing system-wide coherence should be accompanied by a systematic effort to fully exploit opportunities presented by the Summit for sustaining and expanding partnerships with the private sector, local authorities and civil society. The same considerations applied to follow-up actions concerning changing patterns of productions and consumption. In recognizing the importance of this objective, the Summit had highlighted the need to work also at sectoral and enterprise levels and involve business and workers in these processes.

18. There was general support for the view that the main focus of inter-agency action should be at the country level, avoiding the creation of new coordination mechanisms while building on and reinforcing existing ones.

19. CEB members further noted that the Doha development round had encompassed an array of trade-related actions that could substantially reinforce the follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development and advance the overarching goal of eradicating poverty. These actions ranged from helping poor countries integrate into the world trading system and providing assistance to strengthen their productive capacity, thus enabling them to benefit from market opening measures, to promoting government reforms (for example, customs reforms). In the same context, the need for coordinated actions on the part of the system in trade-related development assistance and capacity-building was emphasized.

20. CEB requested HLCP to pursue the actions required to maximize the system's support to a sustained follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development and will give further focus to the matter in 2003.

21. An important concern of CEB in addressing the follow-up to both the Monterrey and the Johannesburg conferences is not only to ensure that the system's capacities are mobilized in ensuring a coordinated and sustained implementation of their outcomes, but also to contribute, both analytically and practically, to meeting the directive of the General Assembly that the follow-up to conferences should be coherent and effectively integrated, and related to relevant goals of the United Nations Millennium Declaration. This has been a consistent objective of the work of CEB and an important part of its dialogue with the Economic and Social Council and of the support that the system provides to the Council's deliberations. CEB

trusts that the work of the open-ended ad hoc working group established by the Assembly in its resolution 57/270 of 20 December 2002 to consider such issues will serve to advance these objectives and is committed to extending to the working group all the necessary support.

D. Treatment and prevention of diseases

22. In the United Nations Millennium Declaration, heads of State and Government had resolved to have "halted, and begun to reverse, the spread of HIV/AIDS, the scourge of malaria and other major diseases that afflict humanity" by 2015 (para. 19). The report of the Secretary-General on a road map towards the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration (A/56/326) identified (see para. 306 thereof) the treatment and prevention of diseases, including HIV/AIDS and malaria, as one of the themes — the other being preventing armed conflict — that would be given special attention in the 2002 annual report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the Millennium Declaration.

23. CEB discussions on the subject drew on the work of the Commission on Macroeconomics and Health, launched by the World Health Organization (WHO). Executive Heads expressed particular appreciation for the Commission's analysis of the financial and other requirements for achieving the Millennium Development Goals in health, and for the strong evidence it offered of the linkages of health to poverty reduction and long-term economic growth.

24. Underlying the preparations for the discussions of CEB and the Board's own deliberations was the recognition that progress in the health sector required a host of mutually reinforcing interventions in both the economic and social spheres and that almost every CEB member organization had a contribution to make to the realization of the health goals of the United Nations Millennium Declaration. The challenge before the system is thus twofold: to consider what the organizations of the system can do — individually and collectively — to bring about the synergies required to make real and sustained progress in the health sector; and to reflect on the contribution that such progress could make to the policy outcomes that each organization is promoting in its area of competence, thus ensuring that advances in the health sector impact positively on the effort to achieve the other development goals embodied in the Millennium Declaration.

25. Discussions in CEB on the need for a multisectoral approach to meeting the challenge of the health-related goals of the United Nations Millennium Declaration served to further highlight the interrelated nature of the development goals embodied in the Millennium Declaration and therefore the importance for the system of advocating and supporting a holistic approach to their implementation.

26. In relation specifically to the health goals, the requirements of economic growth and increases in personal incomes for sustaining progress in the health sector were stressed. The strong link between human health and the environment was also highlighted. This was illustrated by the effects of climate change, and of increasing exposure to harmful chemicals, on the incidence and prevalence of diseases. Indeed, there is hardly a sector of development policy — from agriculture, education and population to water and sanitation, nutrition, rural development, sustainable human settlements, empowerment of women, and investment in children — that does not

impinge on health. In the circumstances, the sequencing of policy interventions and their coordination become crucial.

27. CEB thus stressed the special importance of articulating and making explicit the interrelationship between health and other goals of the United Nations Millennium Declaration in the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) and, more generally, in the system's support strategies at the country level. It called on organizations to collaborate to help secure the place of health in poverty reduction strategies, and to assist countries in tracking progress towards the achievement of health-related goals of the Millenaium Declaration, and, given resource constraints, making appropriate choices among the complementary investments required to achieve these goals. It was also important that a rights-based approach to human health should enter into the policy dialogue and affect overall policy development. The system needed to focus its efforts on outcome strategies to overcome sectoral fragmentation and to bring about measurable results.

28. Turning specifically to HIV/AIDS and its impact, CEB members recalled its devastating consequences for different sectors of the economy and the structures of society, including the educational systems of many countries. The importance of preventive education in combating HIV/AIDS was emphasized. Reference was also made to the need to provide for the management of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the perspective of sustainable human settlements and poverty reduction efforts through slum upgrading, and the maintenance and improvement of human settlements standards to facilitate access to shelter of AIDS-affected persons and orphans. The need to extend programmes to prevent and treat HIV/AIDS to refugees and internally displaced persons was also highlighted.

29. In a like manner, promoting and supporting a culture of prevention should be given increasing attention in the system's activities to combat malaria, which continues to pose serious health problems in many parts of the world. CEB called on the organizations of the United Nations system to strengthen their support for research and other collaborative efforts to address this scourge.

30. It was recognized that the workplace is assuming growing importance in the treatment and prevention of diseases. As enterprises increasingly recognize the benefits of good health, the dissemination of information on the treatment and prevention of infectious diseases, utilizing existing infrastructures, particularly in rural areas, was viewed as a crucial requirement.

E. Preventing armed conflicts

31. Complementing inter-agency collaboration in the preparation of the 2002 report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the United Nations Millennium Declaration, CEB, at its second regular session of 2002, considered issues related to the prevention of armed conflicts and the response thereto of the organizations of the United Nations system.

32. CEB acknowledged the responsibility of the system to support national efforts to integrate a prevention perspective in development programmes and planning processes at the country level. Members of CEB fully recognized the importance, as stressed by the Secretary-General, of ensuring that the task of building capacity for structural and operational prevention at all levels was given high priority by the

international community. CEB recognized, at the same time, that, in order to be an effective source of advice and support to these ends, the United Nations system had to significantly deepen its understanding of the causes of tension within, and between, nations and of the links between peace and development.

33. Members of CEB expressed strong support for the Secretary-General's effort to advance an integrated approach to conflict prevention, and indicated the readiness of their organizations to contribute to strengthened inter-agency consultations so that relevant experiences and capacities represented in the system could be effectively drawn upon in deepening and furthering this approach. They also fully concurred with the view, highlighted in the preparatory process to the CEB discussion, that the focus of system-wide support must remain at the country and subregional levels to assure country and regional ownership of strategies for the prevention of armed conflict.

34. The exchange in CEB focused on the conditions most often associated with armed conflict and the system's response to them in helping prevent or manage conflict.

35. It was generally felt that, though several factors contribute to situations of armed conflict, the prevalence of poverty was of primary importance, as it tended to exacerbate social, economic and cultural tensions. Progress towards the development goals of the United Nations Millennium Declaration, particularly poverty eradication is therefore, vital to reducing the risk of armed conflict. Similarly, non-availability of decent work creates a sense of despair and contributes to increased social tensions, criminality and violence. In turn, education and training and job creation are key means to advance social harmony and peace. The central component of a system-wide strategy for conflict prevention should therefore be the promotion of sustainable development. The conflict prevention and development agendas should be mutually reinforcing. Moving from a culture of reaction to a culture of prevention would avert the waste of resources caused by conflicts, and make those resources available for development.

36. Environmental degradation and resource depletion also often constitute major risk factors. The system's work towards disaster prevention and mitigation, proper water management, and the protection and conservation of the environment and natural resources should be viewed also as a contribution to, and an integral element of, strategies for conflict prevention.

37. Similarly, refugee situations can become a breeding ground for terrorism and create the opportunities for recruiting child soldiers, thus fuelling armed conflict. Durable solutions to the problem of refugees — involving successful repatriation and local integration, enhanced legal protection and the institution of programmes with refugees as potential active agents of development — should become an integral component of system-wide approaches to conflict prevention.

38. Conflicts are often deep-rooted and tend to recur. As such, they display warning signs which should be captured and acted upon. Society is also undermined by organized crime and corruption, which tend to perpetuate crises and can transform local issues into international conflicts.

39. It was observed that external economic and financial support in conflict situations should be accompanied by serious efforts towards transparency and accountability. The United Nations system should be proactive in bringing to light

all relevant factors and in identifying the way to durable solutions that effectively engage the responsibility of all concerned parties.

40. CEB concluded that the creation of a sound analytical base in respect of the conditions that lead to armed conflict — and thus in respect of the most effective ways by which the collective strengths of the system and the diverse, but rich, experience of United Nations organizations in conflict resolution and dialogue can be brought to bear on conflict prevention — should receive focused attention by the system in the period ahead. At the global level, the key priorities of the system are embodied in the United Nations Millennium Declaration. At the country level, progress is being made through the common country assessment/United Nations Development Assistance Framework (CCA/UNDAF) and PRSP processes. A clear framework of priorities, goals and instruments thus exists within which the analysis of interrelationships among factors leading to conflict prevention can be pursued and prevention strategies set. The system's role in supporting the development of effective regional and subregional conflict prevention strategies also requires further collective attention, as does the effort to mainstream the status and role of women in conflict prevention strategies at all levels.

41. The Chief Executives Board decided to actively pursue these issues in close consultation with all partners.

II. System-wide support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)

42. In 2001, CEB reiterated that support for Africa's development should remain a major focus for the United Nations system and requested the High-level Committee on Programmes to maintain the issue in its agenda and keep system-wide support for NEPAD under review. CEB had also decided to strengthen inter-agency coordination arrangements at the regional level, and asked the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) to continue to act as the United Nations system's key interlocutor with African countries on NEPAD.

43. There was a strong consensus that the United Nations system should pursue a deliberate strategy to extend and engender support for NEPAD. This should include a focused effort at integrating the implementation of NEPAD in the follow-up processes of the United Nations Millennium Declaration and in the agenda and outcomes of conferences and summits. Full use should be made of existing country-level mechanisms and ongoing processes of review, and improvement of national coordination frameworks, particularly the PRSPs, should be supported. National leadership and capacity-building should be reinforced and the performance of the United Nations system at the country level should be systematically and closely monitored within the framework of NEPAD.

44. In reviewing developments with regard to United Nations system support for NEPAD, the High-level Committee on Programme (HLCP), at its third regular session held in March 2002, recalled that NEPAD was not a new institutional mechanism or organization but a policy and programme framework designed by African leaders to further Africa's development (CEB/2002/4, para. 8). It noted that the NEPAD Steering Committee and secretariat had been actively seeking the support of different United Nations agencies in relation to various tasks, taking into

account their particular strengths, as needed. HLCP stressed the importance, building on these contacts and the coordinating framework provided by the system of regional inter-agency consultations convened by the Executive Secretary of ECA, of extending system-wide support to NEPAD and of systematically sharing information and experience that would serve to enhance the quality and coherence of such support. Organizations were invited to utilize to these ends the facilities of ECA, which would help steer the work of United Nations organizations in the continent and report periodically to HLCP and CEB.

45. At the first regular session of 2002 of CEB, held in April 2002, Executive Heads noted the important developments that had taken place in recent months, including the agreement reached at the first meeting of the Heads of State Implementation Committee held in October 2001 on a governing structure for NEPAD, consisting of an Implementation Committee of Heads of State, a Steering Committee and a secretariat (see CEB/2002/1, para. 24). At the same time, the main areas for which specific projects and programmes were to be developed had been identified. At the inter-agency level, a regional consultation of United Nations agencies working in Africa had identified six thematic areas for priority collaboration within the system: infrastructure; human resource development; macroeconomic policies and trade diversification; information technology; agriculture and environment; and population and employment. Human rights, humanitarian and refugee concerns were subsequently added. These developments confirmed the CEB conclusion that NEPAD offers a solid framework for the maximization by the United Nations system of the effectiveness and impact of its contribution to Africa's development. As the actual programmes under NEPAD took shape, inter-agency actions would gather momentum.

46. In this light, Executive Heads reiterated their strong support for the integrated approach to peace-building and development reflected in NEPAD, and the efforts under way to foster peace, manage internal and inter-State conflicts and the associated problems of refugees and internally displaced persons, and strengthen national institutions. These were essential to creating a conducive environment for sustainable development and encouraging investments in Africa. However, these efforts needed to be supported in their own right. Problems arising in one country should not be allowed to affect the international community's approach to the entire continent. In particular, international development support needed to be substantially strengthened. A doubling of official development assistance (ODA), and its maintenance at that level for a decade, were a basic requirement for achieving the goal of halving poverty by the year 2015. This had to be accompanied by substantial investment and sustained technical support from the international community.

47. Among the areas requiring essential support from the United Nations system was that of building the capabilities that would enable African countries to benefit from new trade opportunities. Diversification of African economies, fostering of the productive sector and progress in trade facilitation were of vital importance in this regard. A strong focus on reversing and preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS was also considered crucial. Other areas cited as requiring closer attention included the role of science and technology in development, and the adverse consequences of rapid urbanization, and the growth of urban slums.

48. CEB urged organizations to maintain and further enhance their engagement in Africa, and to continue consultation and coordination with ECA, as the system's key

interlocutor on NEPAD. HLCP was requested to maintain NEPAD in its agenda and assist CEB in keeping the system's support for NEPAD under review.

III. Developments in inter-agency collaboration

A. Collaboration in management areas

49. Progress continued to be made in 2002, under the aegis of both HLCM and HLCP, to introduce innovative and more effective modalities of inter-agency cooperation. The present section provides illustrations of developments and initiatives in the management as well as the programme areas that are contributing to greater system-wide effectiveness and coherence.

1. Information and communication technologies

50. The development of a common vision for information and communication technologies (ICT) has remained a priority item in the work programme of the High-level Committee on Management. At its third session held in March 2002, the Committee discussed a long-term strategy encompassing how the organizations of the system could most effectively employ new ICT to advance their agendas and how, in so doing, they could best share experiences and results. It requested that work in this area be pursued around the following specific initiatives (CEB/2002/3, para. 9):

- Developing a compendium of good practices in the use of ICT for programme delivery, as well as of good practices relating to key hardware, software and networking issues and methods for identifying and justifying the risks, rewards and costs of ICT infrastructure development and business innovations.
- Disseminating best practices leading to more secure and robust information services system-wide.
- Exploring the feasibility of a system-wide search engine.
- Improving information-sharing among staff of United Nations system organizations, inter alia, by expanding joint purchasing through framework agreements and volume discounts for ICT hardware, software and services; and facilitating thematic discussions among ICT experts for knowledge-sharing on specific topics of inter-agency concern, such as Enterprise Resource Planning systems.

51. Progress has also been made in establishing a United Nations system Extranet, allowing a better sharing of content, tools and applications that ordinarily reside in the Intranets of individual United Nations system organizations. The Committee urged organizations that had not yet done so to complete the technical work necessary to enable them to access the Extranet. It also requested the CEB secretariat to examine the suggestions made by the Committee as to the applications and types of information — both strategic policy information and administrative information that would be useful to the staff at large — that would most benefit from dissemination through the Extranet.

52. To examine the feasibility and cost/benefit of developing an inter-agency search facility across the public web sites of all the United Nations system

organizations, based on customized commercial software, the United Nations Secretariat had carried out a review of various search products. It concluded that the "Google" service fulfilled the requirements for a system-wide search facility. HLCM endorsed the concept of developing the search engine. It invited organizations to participate in a pilot project on the basis of which a more detailed proposal, with cost estimates and a time frame for implementation, could be presented at a future session.

53. With regard to the compendium of good ICT practices, HLCM noted that work had begun, inter alia, on the development of a number of guides for senior management on key hardware/software and networking issues. The first of these relates to Information Technology Infrastructure Library Service Management. Work is also under way on methods for identifying and justifying risks, rewards and costs of ICT infrastructure development and business innovations.

54. On information security, HLCM requested information on the work being undertaken by United Nations system organizations resulting in more secure and robust information services to cope with the increasing risks of cyber-attacks and the like. It endorsed the recommendation of a working group that had prepared a template for improved management of information security.

55. HLCM also expressed interest in closer links with the ICT Task Force and requested the CEB secretariat to identify areas in which greater synergies or effectiveness might be attained by collaborating with the Task Force.

2. Staff security and safety

56. HLCM reviewed progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolutions on the safety and security of humanitarian personnel, and protection of United Nations personnel. It noted that, at Headquarters, the recruitment of additional staff to serve in the Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator (UNSECOORD) had been almost completed. Similarly, in the field, a majority of Field Security Officers (FSOs) were already in place. Applicants successful in the interview, but not assigned to a field position, would be placed on the UNSECOORD security roster so as to be available for rapid assignment. A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) which would undertake the recruitment and administration of the FSOs on behalf of the United Nations system.

57. Significant progress was also reported in training to enhance the security awareness and preparedness of staff. In addition to the training programmes themselves, an interactive CD-ROM had been developed for use by all United Nations organizations. The essential message is that security is a shared responsibility, and that senior managers, at headquarters as well as in the field, have to take full responsibility for their role in the management of staff security.

58. The issue of air safety, not only in situations where the United Nations system charters aircraft, but also in relation to the use of commercial aircraft, is becoming a matter of growing concern. An inter-agency group has been tasked to consider proposals to establish common minimum air safety and security standards. Recommendations will be forwarded to HLCM at its next meeting. The Committee also took note of the willingness of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) to provide assistance.

59. HLCM further requested the World Food Programme (WFP) to consider taking on the responsibility of administering all humanitarian and other air operations, excluding peacekeeping, and to establish an independent air safety unit to ensure both the efficiency and the safety of United Nations humanitarian and other air operations. The offer of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to join WFP and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the United Nations Secretariat in the Air Safety Working Group was welcomed.

60. HLCM confirmed its commitment to the implementation of minimum operating security standards at all duty stations and commended those organizations that were taking an active role in facilitating the implementation of those standards. It requested UNSECOORD to provide an update on the status of implementation of the minimum operating security standards at the next session.

B. Collaboration on conferences

1. World Food Summit: Five Years Later

61. The World Food Summit: Five Years Later, led by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) provides yet another example of close inter-agency cooperation, inter alia, in the perspective of advancing progress in furthering the objectives and goals of the United Nations Millennium Declaration. The Summit had called for a 10-year review, but it was subsequently decided to convene a review conference after 5 years to draw attention to the lack of progress in achieving the hunger reduction goals set by the Summit.

62. FAO worked closely with United Nations organizations in both the preparatory phase and during the conference itself. Before the conference, FAO worked with organizations of the system in preparing the background documents. Papers prepared by FAO staff[3] were circulated to peer reviewers, including relevant United Nations system organizations. In particular, a paper on "Mobilizing resources for agriculture in support of food security" had benefited from the work of a high-level panel on resource mobilization convened by the Director-General of FAO in June 2001, which brought together senior representatives of all major international financial institutions, UNDP and WFP under the chairmanship of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

63. The Secretary-General and 26 United Nations system organizations took an active part in the Summit and participated in the multi-stakeholder dialogue as well as in parallel and side events held during the Summit.

64. FAO is working closely with relevant United Nations partners in ensuring that the follow-up to the World Food Summit: Five Years Later and the follow-up processes for other United Nations conferences and summits, including the Millennium Summit, are mutually reinforcing.

2. World Summit on the Information Society

65. The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) requested the Secretary-General of ITU to place the question of the holding of a World Summit on the Information Society in the agenda of CEB (see A/57/71-E/2002/52). Most member organizations of CEB have expressed interest in being associated with the preparatory process as well as with the Summit.

66. The Summit will be held under the patronage of the Secretary-General of the United Nations with ITU taking the lead role in the preparations. It will be held in two phases — the first in Geneva in December 2003, and the second in Tunis in 2005. It will provide an opportunity for all key stakeholders to collectively develop a better understanding of the information revolution and its impact on the international community. The issue of the roles of the various partners (Member States, specialized agencies of the United Nations system, the private sector and civil society) in ensuring an effective, coordinated growth of the information society around the globe will be at the heart of the Summit. It is expected that a clear statement of political will and a concrete plan of action to achieve the goals of the information society will emerge from the Summit, and will fully reflect the different interests at stake. This will require partnerships with public and private entities, which are being actively sought.

67. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 56/183 of 21 December 2001, an open-ended Preparatory Committee has been convened to define the agenda, decide on the modalities of the participation of other stakeholders in the Summit and finalize the draft declaration and plan of action. A High-level Summit Organizing Committee to coordinate the efforts of the United Nations family has also been formed. It reports directly to CEB and includes the International Labour Organization (ILO), FAO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Health Organization (WHO), ICAO, the International Maritime Organization (IMO), ITU, the Universal Postal Union (UPU), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), UNDP, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and UNHCR.

68. The First Preparatory Committee meeting was held in Geneva in July 2002. The inputs of non-governmental organizations, civil society and the business sector are also being actively sought. Two further meetings of the Preparatory Committee are planned for 2003, as are four regional conferences for Africa, Europe, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean.

69. The Secretary-General of ITU briefed CEB in November 2002 on preparations for the Summit and noted that the focus of the Summit would be on tackling the digital divide by providing access to ICT for all; raising awareness of ICT as a tool for economic development and assisting in implementing the Millennium Development Goals; and building security and confidence in the use of ICT, including the possible need for new frameworks in cyberspace.

70. The ICT Task Force had offered its global networks of working groups as well as regional networks as platforms through which to maximize engagement of all stakeholders in the preparatory process.

C. Innovative modalities of programme collaboration: trade facilitation

71. The High-level Committee on Programmes (HCLP) has provided the forum for the launch of an inter-agency initiative on trade facilitation. At an inter-agency meeting convened by UNCTAD in April 2002, the establishment of a mechanism for

sharing knowledge and experiences among participating agencies was agreed upon. The mechanism involves the use of the latest information technology to promote transparency, coordination and cooperative work, supported by an automatic and interactive web site. After an initial trial period, the proposed web site will be in widespread use among agencies seeking to disseminate information on their work in the field of trade facilitation, as well as to exchange ideas and studies in support of inter-agency collaborative initiatives.

72. The main United Nations organizations dealing with trade facilitation were asked to nominate a "Manager", who would be responsible for the specific inputs of the agency, and to assign "Authors", who would provide the inputs.

73. HLCP welcomed the flexible approach adopted by the initiative as a model for future inter-agency collaboration on specific projects.

IV. Assistance to countries invoking Article 50 of the Charter of the United Nations

74. Information on the measures taken by the United Nations system to provide assistance to third States affected by the implementation of sanctions imposed on Iraq and the former Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was first contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the question of special economic problems of States as a result of sanctions imposed under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations (A/48/573-S/26705) and thereafter in the annual overview reports of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) (E/1993/81, E/1994/19, E/1995/21, E/1996/18 and Add.1, E/1997/54 and Corr.1, E/1998/21, E/1999/48, E/2000/53 and E/2001/55) and of CEB (E/2002/55). In addition, the Secretary-General submitted to the General Assembly five reports (A/49/356, A/50/423, A/51/356, A/52/535 and A/54/534) on economic assistance to States affected by the implementation of sanctions imposed on the former Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Since 2000, the report on that subject has been superseded by the report of the Secretary-General on economic assistance to the Eastern European States affected by the developments in the Balkans (A/55/620 and Corr.1 and A/56/632). Moreover, the implementation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions has been the subject of a series of eight annual reports of the Secretary-General (A/50/361, A/51/317, A/52/308, A/53/312, A/54/383 and Add.1, A/55/295 and Add.1, A/56/303 and A/57/165 and Add.1).

75. The General Assembly, in its resolution 57/25 of 19 November 2002 on the implementation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions, took note of the most recent report of the Secretary-General (A/57/165 and Add.1) and requested him to pursue the implementation of Assembly resolutions 50/51, 51/208, 52/162, 53/107, 54/107, 55/157 and 56/87 and to ensure that the competent units within the Secretariat developed the adequate capacity and appropriate modalities, technical procedures and guidelines to continue, on a regular basis, to collate and coordinate information about international assistance available to third States affected by the implementation of sanctions, to continue developing a possible methodology for assessing the adverse consequences actually incurred by third States and to explore innovative and practical measures of assistance to the affected third States.

76. In the same resolution, the General Assembly reaffirmed the important role of the Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and CPC in mobilizing and monitoring the economic assistance efforts of the international community and the United Nations system on behalf of States confronted with special economic problems arising from the carrying out of preventive or enforcement measures imposed by the Security Council and in identifying solutions to the special economic problems of those States; and took note of the decision of the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2000/32 of 28 July 2000, to continue its consideration of the question of assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions, and decided to transmit the most recent report of the Secretary-General on the matter to the Council at its substantive session of 2003. In the same resolution, the Assembly invited the organizations of the United Nations system, international financial institutions, other international and regional organizations and Member States to address more specifically and directly, where appropriate, the special economic problems of third States affected by sanctions imposed under Chapter VII of the Charter and, for that purpose, to consider improving procedures for consultations to maintain a constructive dialogue with such States, including through regular and frequent meetings as well as, where appropriate, special meetings between the affected third States and the donor community, with the participation of United Nations agencies and other international organizations.

77. The relevant components of the United Nations system and related organizations, including the international financial institutions, are fully aware of the special needs and situations of the affected States. Most of them have been providing, on a regular basis, information on their assistance programmes on behalf of countries invoking Article 50 of the Charter of the United Nations, as reflected in the aforementioned reports of the Secretary-General. Their governing bodies remain committed to responding positively to requests for assistance to States confronted with special economic problems as a result of implementing preventive or enforcement measures imposed by the Security Council.

Notes

[1] See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[2] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[3] These papers, entitled "New challenges to the achievement of World Food Summit goals", "Fostering the political will to fight hunger", and "Mobilizing resources for agriculture in support of food security", were subsequently collected in a volume entitled *Mobilizing the Political Will and Resources to Banish World Hunger* (Rome, FAO, 2002).